

Hawaii Marine



Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Marines of Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 “Scarface” stand in formation during a welcome aboard ceremony on the Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Hawaii, flight line, Sept. 17, 2012. The squadron was activated in 1943 as Marine Observation Squadron 351 and supported campaigns in both Peleliu and Okinawa. The squadron was designated HMLA-367 in 1969 and adopted its call sign “Scarface.” Since then, HMLA-367 has supported missions during Operations Desert Shield and Storm, and Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. The squadron flies UH-1Y Huey and AH-1W Super Cobra helicopters.

MCB Hawaii welcomes HMLA-367 ‘Scarface’

Cpl. James A. Sauter
Combat Correspondent

History was made for Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, and Marine Aircraft Group 24 when Marine Light Attack Helicopter Squadron 367 “Scarface” was officially welcomed aboard during a ceremony between Hangars 101 and 102 on the flightline, Monday.

“Today not only represents the welcoming of ‘Scarface,’ but it’s also a huge part of where we’re moving toward in the Pacific,” said Col. Paul A. Fortunato, MAG-24 commanding officer. “There’s no place in Marine Corps aviation that has more change coming than right here in Hawaii. The introduction of the UH-1Y Huey and AH-1W Super Cobras are certainly a part of this huge transition.”

The squadron was originally commissioned in December 1943 as Marine Observation Squadron 351. The unit deployed in support of numerous campaigns in the Pacific during World War II, including Peleliu,

Tarawa and Okinawa. Immediately after the war, Scarface served with allied forces during a brief occupation of northern China. While in China, Scarface worked alongside MAG-24. Both later relocated to Guam, and then to MCAS Cherry Point, N.C.

“Today is the perfect day to welcome HMLA-367 back to Hawaii because 225 years ago today, the U.S. Constitution was signed,” Fortunato said. “How perfect is it for those of us that support and defend it to celebrate its signing with the welcoming of this light attack helicopter squadron.”

While deployed to Vietnam in 1969, Scarface was officially redesignated as an attack helicopter squadron and adopted its current nickname. With the expanding necessity for armed helicopter support, Scarface became the first Marine squadron to fly the AH-1G Cobra helicopter. In 1975, Scarface deployed once again with additional UH-1E Hueys and CH-46 Sea Knights in support of the evacuation of Vietnamese and Cambodian refugees at the end of the Vietnam War. From

then on, Scarface remained a squadron mixed with variants of the Huey and Cobra.

“The hangar that we’re operating out of, Hangar 101, bears scars from the infamous attack on Dec. 7, 1941, and that serves as a daily reminder to us why we’re here,” said Lt. Col. Victor Maduka, HMLA-367 commanding officer. “‘Scarface’ is very humbled to train here in the remarkable Hawaiian island chain. I can’t wait to push out and contribute to this ‘ohana’ as we move along.”

Scarface remained active after the Vietnam War and was deployed numerous times during Operations Desert Shield and Storm, Iraqi and Enduring Freedom. Scarface is slated to send a detachment to support the 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit during training exercises next summer.

“This is the legacy and ethos of the Marines of ‘Scarface,’” Maduka said. “We continue pledging to train shoulder-to-shoulder so that when we’re called, we’ll be able to fight and win as a team.”

MARINES, SAILORS OF UGLY ANGELS, 3RD MARINES RETURN HOME

Cpl. Sean Aaberg, aerial observer and helicopter mechanic, Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron 362, enjoys a moment with his wife and friends during a homecoming ceremony at Hangar 105, Friday. More than 150 Marines and sailors from HMH-362 and 3rd Marine Regiment returned from a seven-month deployment to southern Afghanistan.



Cpl. James A. Sauter | Hawaii Marine

Hawaii Marines employ new interactive bomb trainer, learn to defeat enemy IEDs

Cpl. Reece Lodder
Combat Correspondent

Though the suite of four tan trailers doesn’t look like much from the outside, a short trip inside quickly confirms its worth.

Decked out with a plethora of high-definition TVs and intricately crafted visual displays, the trailers form the base’s new Mobile Counter-IED Interactive Trainer. The MCIT, which is geared toward junior Marines and officers, provides a practical education on one of the most significant and deadly threats currently facing troops on the ground — the improvised explosive device, or IED.

“If we can save one Marine’s life by sending him or her through this trainer, then our mission is accomplished,” said Chris Shott, the MCIT site lead.

Approximately 25 Marines with Transportation Service Company, Combat Logistics Battalion 3, were among the first to employ the MCIT at Boondocker Training Area, Tuesday.

Their journey began in the first trailer, where they received an overview of IED components recently employed by enemy forces in overseas theaters. Colorful plastic jugs, lumpy bags of fertilizer and scrap material fashioned into pressure

See MCIT, A-7



Kristen Wong | Hawaii Marine

‘ANCHORS AWEIGH’

Chief Petty Officer Jason Hudson places a chief’s cover on the head of Chief Petty Officer Daniel Kalvaitis, a Naval aircrewmen operator, with Naval Aviation and Training Unit, as Kalvaitis’ wife observes during a promotion ceremony in Hangar 104, Sept. 14. More than 30 sailors from various units on base were promoted together to the rank of chief petty officer during the ceremony. “Ask the chief” is a household (phrase), and along with the title, comes a lot of responsibility to both the Navy and the sailors,” said Senior Chief Petty Officer Bradley Weiss, the Navy senior enlisted advisor for 3rd Marine Regiment. “The role of a CPO as a mentor, leader, educator, disciplinarian, and listener takes time and effort, and the CPO mess today and in the future will strive to develop and shape the leaders of tomorrow.”



War Dawgz bite back!
Taking a bite out of flag football, **B-1**



Hook, Line, and Sinker
Going fishing in Kaneohe Bay, **C-1**

Saturday
High 83
Low 74

Sunday
High 83
Low 74

Take a bus for Kaneohe Bay Air Show

Kaneohe Bay Air Show Closures

For more information about the beach closures, call MCCS Aquatics at 254-7655.

POW/MIA Recognition Day events

The ceremony is free and open to the public, and organizations are welcome to present wreaths or flowers, but wreaths must be delivered to Punchbowl no later than 9:15 a.m. today. Please contact Elizabeth Feeney at 448-1937 or visit JPAC's website for more information.

FY 13 Intramural Marksmanship Matches

For more information about the intramural marksmanship matches, email brian.somers@usmc.mil or tommie.hudson@usmc.mil.

Important phone numbers

On-Base Emergencies	911
Child Protective Service	832-5300
Fraud, Waste, Abuse & EEO	257-8852
Pothole & Streetlight Repair	257-2380
Base Information	449-7110
MCB Hawaii Chaplain	257-3552
DEERS	257-2077

www.mcbh.usmc.mil

Commanding Officer	Col. Brian P. Annichiario
Base Sergeant Major	Sgt. Maj. Robert E. Eriksson
Public Affairs Director	Capt. Pamela K. Marshall
Public Affairs Deputy Director	1st Lt. Diann Olson
Public Affairs Chief	Gunnery Sgt. Matthew O. Holly
Public Affairs Operations Chief	Staff Sgt. Brian A. Tuthill
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A blue and yellow F/A-18 Hornet fighter jet, number 6, is parked on a tarmac. The aircraft features "U.S. NAVY" and "Blue Angels" markings. The background shows a bright blue sky with white clouds and a sun flare in the upper left corner.

Cpl. Reece Lodder | Hawaii Marine

The U.S. Navy's Flight Demonstration Squadron, the Blue Angels, is scheduled to arrive at Marine Corps Air Station, Kaneohe Bay, Monday, Sept. 24 at 2 p.m. The jets will be followed by the arrival of "Fat Albert," the Blue Angels' C-130 Hercules. The Kaneohe Bay Air Show is a free event and a military pre-show is scheduled Sept. 28. The air show is open to the public Sept. 29 and 30. For more information, see <http://www.kaneohebairshow.com>.

Press Release

Pacific Aviation Museum

Again this year, the Museum will be participating in Smithsonian Magazine's Museum Day Live with free admission to the Museum on Sept. 29 with tickets from <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/museumday/ticket/>.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Mark Logico | U.S. Navy

The Pacific Aviation Museum officially began the \$7.5 million stabilization of the historic Ford Island Control Tower with a Hawaiian blessing. The tower stood over Ford Island, Dec. 7, 1941, the day Japan attacked Pearl Harbor, bringing the United States into World War II. The museum is the newest Affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution and will have a free museum day Sept. 29.

AROUND THE CORPS

Indiana Marine earns Silver Star Medal

Sgt. Ray Lewis

Marine Forces Reserve

CAMP ATTERBURY, Ind. — “I thought I was going to die,” Staff Sgt. Alec Haralovich said he pondered as he lay on his back in Afghanistan.

On Oct. 4, 2011, Taliban fighters ambushed his patrol of dismounted Marines with automatic gunfire. The enemy’s aim was accurate. Two bullets had struck his body armor with such force that he was knocked backward into the dirt.

Haralovich had seen all the signs. It was quiet as they patrolled Ghorah, a village that was usually filled with people.

“As we were pushing through we were all feeling confident like we were going to get a drop on these guys,” thought Haralovich, from Bloomington, Ind. “They’re not going to have anywhere to run to.”

He was wrong. The insurgents set up a complex ambush that lured his Marines into a death trap.

Haralovich didn’t let his fears get the best of him though. He had survived two other combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. A reconnaissance Marine who knows how to treat his own wounds, Haralovich applied pressure to his side while he checked for bleeding.

There was no blood.

“I was really angry,” he recalled. “I was angry because it basically was like they had duped us, they had out maneuvered us, outsmarted us.”

Haralovich’s combat medic, Cpl. Matthew Chen, thought he was critically wounded and bounded forward to treat Haralovich. However, Haralovich was only shot in his armor, so he yelled at Chen to get back.

As Chen was returning, he was wounded in the leg, with a minor



Sgt. Ray Lewis | Marine Forces Reserve

Staff Sgt. Alec Haralovich displays his Silver Star Medal at an award ceremony, Aug. 26.

grazing wound from an enemy bullet.

“That’s when I was like, time for the rocket shot,” he said. “It’s time to end this now.”

He yelled for a Marine to bring him the M72 Light Anti-Tank Weapon, a rocket launcher that can disable a tank. He knew this weapon well. He trained extensively with it on active duty before he became a reconnaissance man in the Marine Corps Reserves.

Haralovich and his team bounded forward through an open field toward the enemy, while two of his Marines were sending rounds steadily to the enemy. Haralovich armed his rocket launcher. He knew he had to hurry because those two Marines were laying prone, shooting with less than one foot of cover.

“Running out with a prepped LAW on your shoulder, you’re definitely a target, I realized like halfway into the field,” Haralovich remembered. “I had to basically hurry up, take the shot.”

Haralovich fired. The explosion blew up the enemy stronghold and caused all of the attackers to cease fire and retreat. But Haralovich and the Marines weren’t finished. He wasn’t just going to let insurgents attack them.

Haralovich tried to communicate with the other element but he couldn’t. One of the rounds that struck his armor also ruined his radio.

He had to go back and link up to get a face-to-face with his other patrol element. Then both elements patrolled forward as a bigger, stronger unit.

“We knew there was a command and control element that was well known within the region that was near this mosque so we pushed to the north,” Haralovich said. “We pushed toward that area, ran into a couple more fighters. They were surprised to see us and then they took off.”

With the insurgents nowhere to be seen, Haralovich gathered his men and headed back to the patrol

base. His company commander, Capt. Jonathan Joseph, said he had to convince him to rest after he had returned.

For his gallantry in action, Haralovich was presented the Silver Star Medal, the nation’s third highest award for combat heroism, by Maj. Gen. James M. Lariviere, the 4th Marine Division commanding general at Camp Atterbury in Indiana, Aug. 26.

More than 100 Marines, sailors, soldiers, family and friends attended the event at the training base. This was the same place where his grandfather, an Army veteran, was stationed before serving in D-Day in 1944. So it was also a historical occasion for Haralovich and his immediate and extended family members who attended the ceremony.

“I’d have to say that he’s made me extremely proud,” said Peter Haralovich, Alec’s uncle. “We followed his three tours in Iraq and Afghanistan and communicated with him regularly by satellite phone and email.

We’ve experienced the stress that any family experiences. And of course we’re relieved that he’s healthy and in one piece and looking forward to the rest of his career in the United States military.”

“I couldn’t be prouder,” said Joseph. “Not just because he got the award. What he did that day, he did that countless other times. It wasn’t just an isolated incident. He did that every day. He was by far the best team leader I have ever had.”

According to his uncle, heroics run in his family. Haralovichs fought as Marines in the Pacific and executed bombing missions as soldiers in Germany during World War II. Haralovich adds a new chapter to his family’s legacy of war fighters who have lived for something beyond themselves.

Teamwork pushes Landing Support Company through Battle Skills course

Courtesy Story

2nd Marine Logistics Group

MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP LEJEUNE, N.C. — The murky, humid land surrounding Battle Skills Training School here is an environment only the creepiest of crawlies could love — unless it’s time for training.

Marines and sailors with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, fought through the endurance course at BSTS here, Sept. 14.

Their gear was filthy. Camouflage uniforms were unrecognizable. Mud could be found in the deepest crevices of their souls, but none of it was a factor at the end of the day.

“This gets the Marines together and builds unit cohesion and teamwork,” said Capt. Joe Saunders, the commanding officer for the company. “It gives them a chance to get in teams, work together and push each other.”

The troops continuously helped one another throughout the course by lending a hand or giving words of encouragement.

“If we did stuff like this more often, it would definitely bring people closer together, and we will work well with each other,” said Lance Cpl. Joseph M. Tomes, a landing support specialist with the company.



Lance Cpl. Devin Nichols | 2nd Marine Logistics Group

Service members with Landing Support Company, Combat Logistics Regiment 27, flip a tire during the endurance course at Battle Skills Training School aboard Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, N.C., Sept. 14. The participants were forced to use teamwork to get the tire from one location to another before moving onto the next obstacle.

The endurance course consisted of more than 10 obstacles which spanned about three miles. For nearly an hour, troops pushed through challenges like crawling under barbed wire, climbing over walls and wading through muddy water.

“This is the type of stuff Marines call home about

and write to their families,” said Saunders. “I’m about to be 35 years old, and I feel like I’m in my 20s again. You don’t always get this opportunity.”

Most of the Marines in the company said getting the opportunity to train with their peers in a different environment can bring the best out of Marines and sailors.

Rappel tower needed: Engineers roped in to help

Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns

Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

MARINE CORPS AIR STATION MIRAMAR, Calif. — Since 1973, personnel with the San Diego Sheriff’s Department Special Enforcement Detail have trained at the rappel tower located outside of their facility aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar.

With so many years of use, it comes as no surprise that the combat engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 arrived on scene to practically rebuild the roughly 30-year-old tower.

“The tower was pretty much condemned,” said Sgt. Rob Stoecker, the construction site foreman with MWSS-373, and a Columbus, Ohio, native. “There was no way anyone could [rappel down] it. I’ve honestly never seen so many termites in my life. My Marines and I could put our hands through the wood, it was horrible.”

Throughout the construction of the tower, Stoecker’s crew members felt confident in its

progress.

The work went along as well as could be hoped for, explained Lance Cpl. Lorenzo Sintas, a combat engineer with MWSS-373, and a Colorado Springs, Colo., native. The crew worked well and the tower was rebuilt.

The tower took MWSS-373 combat engineers about three weeks to complete – one week less than expected.

Stoecker said the speedy completion is all thanks to the hard work of his crew.

With the tower completed, the Sheriff’s Department is free to train their recruits on rappelling once more in addition to units like special weapons and tactics and fire rescue teams from around San Diego County.

“The rappel tower has been a regional commodity used by anyone who needed it in San Diego County and now it’s complete and training will commence as it was before,” said Deputy John Spach, an operator for the San Diego Sheriff’s Department Special Enforcement Detail.



Lance Cpl. Christopher Johns | Marine Corps Air Station Miramar

Combat engineers with Marine Wing Support Squadron 373 work on building the roof of the San Diego County Sheriff’s Department rappel tower aboard Marine Corps Air Station Miramar, Calif., Tuesday. The project, which normally would have taken a month to complete, was finished in three weeks.



‘Trackin’ like a Tank’

Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, gather around an Australian M1A1 tank for a brief with Australian soldiers from 2nd Troop, A Squadron, 1st Armored Regiment, before executing a bilateral assault on the Urban Operations Training Facility, nicknamed “Little Fallujah,” at Mount Bunday Training Area, Sept. 5. For approximately three weeks, Marines from Co. F have been conducting bilateral field training with various elements of the Australian Army’s 1st Brigade, based at Robertson Barracks.



Marines with Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, provide rooftop security for an Australian M1A1 tank from 2nd Troop, A Squadron, 1st Armored Regiment, during a bilateral assault on the Urban Operations Training Facility at Mount Bunday Training Area, Sept. 5.

Co. F trains with Aussie armor down under

Story and photos by
Cpl. Jacob D. Barber
Combat Correspondent

MOUNT BUNDEY TRAINING AREA, NORTHERN TERRITORY, Australia — Marines of Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment were positioned and camouflaged throughout a tree line as they waited patiently for their Australian partners to arrive before executing an assault on the Urban Operations Training Facility at Mount Bunday Training Area, Sept. 5.

The massive engines of M1A1 tanks echoed between the walls of the training town as the machines rolled down the dirt road and past the first two buildings. Their job was to provide cover fire and support while the Marines rushed into each building, cleared it, and took simulated enemy fire from role-players.

The attack was one of the first scenarios in a three-week bilateral field training operation with Marine Rotational Force – Darwin, composed primarily of Co. F and the Australian Army. The operation is the culminating bilateral field training event of

the Marines’ inaugural rotation to Australia, which began in April.

In this exercise, the Marines had the support of 2nd Troop, A Squadron, 1st Armored Regiment.

“I think this training really helped both my guys [the tank operators and crewmen] and the Marines because they were able to operate with different forces and integrate,” said Australian Army Sgt. Nicholas Zerafa, troop sergeant, 2nd Troop, A Squadron. “We started off slow at first but we worked on our weaknesses together and the raid got a lot smoother and faster throughout the day.”

According to Staff Sgt. Stephen Kephart, a platoon sergeant with Co. F, the Australian soldiers provided a unique training opportunity for both forces.

“[The Australians] were extremely professional and knew their job very well which helped a lot in completing our overall mission,” Kephart said. “This whole mission was conducted to help the Marines better understand and work with mechanized assets in conjunction with urban operations and international operability.”

“The soldiers brought a lot to the table

and really helped us achieve that focus,” said Kephart.

During the training event with the tank crew, the Marines cleared 13 buildings while maneuvering under the cover fire of the tanks.

“Most of us have never worked with tanks before so it was a little different than what we were used to,” said Lance Cpl. Gianni Pacheco, a rifleman with Co. F. “I was the radio operator for the platoon and was able to communicate with the soldiers inside the tanks.”

“I realized that when we were on the same page with them, and they with us, everything went real smooth and it was just a motivating experience,” said Pacheco.

After the Marines finished the training scenario, many of them said it was something they would like to do again.

“I think a lot of them realized that working with assets like this is very important,” Kephart said. “I know a lot of them really would jump on the opportunity to do it again.”

“Overall it was an outstanding opportunity to work with our brothers in arms,” said Kephart.



Australian soldiers from 2nd Troop, A Squadron, 1st Armored Regiment, drive an M1A1 tank to their starting destination before executing a bilateral assault with U.S. Marines from Company F, 2nd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, on the Urban Operations Training Facility at Mount Bunday Training Area, Sept. 5.

Fabrication begins on future USS John Finn

News Release

Team Ships Public Affairs

ASCAGOULA, Miss. — Huntington Ingalls Industries marked the start of fabrication on the future USS John Finn, currently designated an Arleigh Burke-class destroyer (DDG-113), Sept. 10, signifying the first 100 tons of steel cut for the Navy’s latest ship in the guided-missile destroyer program.

The USS John Finn will be the first ship in the DDG 51 program restart and the 29th DDG 51 class destroyer built at HII.

“This ship, and the Arleigh Burke class destroyers that follow her, represent the next chapter in this extremely successful shipbuilding program,” said Navy Capt. Mark Vandroff, DDG 51 Class program manager, Program Executive Office Ships. “These ships provide superior combat capability at an affordable price to our nation.”

The Navy awarded HII a detail design and construction contract for DDG 113 June 15, 2011. Currently, the Navy has four Arleigh Burke-class



2nd Class Robert Stirrup | U.S. Navy

In this 2009 file photo, retired Lt. John W. Finn takes a ride on the USS Arizona Memorial White Boat John W. Finn, named for him in 2009. Finn was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient until his death in 2010. He was awarded the Medal of Honor for heroism during the Dec. 7, 1941 Japanese bombing of then Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Jennifer R. Hudson | U.S. Navy

destroyers under contract: DDG-113 and DDG-114 at HII, and DDG-115 and DDG-116 at General Dynamics Bath Iron Works. The Navy is relying on a stable and mature infrastructure while increasing the ship’s air and missile defense capabilities through spiral upgrades to the weapons and sensor suites. All of these Flight IIA destroyers will be delivered with Integrated Air and Missile Defense capability.

The DDG 51 class ships are multi-mission surface combatants designed to perform in anti-air, surface and subsurface environments. These destroyers are equipped with the Navy’s Aegis Combat System, the world’s foremost integrated naval weapon system.

The future USS John Finn is expected to be completed in early 2016, and is named after John William Finn, a sailor in the U.S. Navy who received the Medal of Honor for his actions during the attack on Pearl Harbor in World War II.

As a chief aviation ordnanceman stationed at Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, he earned the medal by manning a machine gun from an exposed position throughout the attack, despite being repeatedly wounded. At the time of his death in May 2010, Finn was the oldest living Medal of Honor recipient and the last living recipient from the Japanese attack.

As one of the Department of Defense’s largest acquisition organizations, PEO Ships, an affiliated PEO of the Naval Sea Systems Command, is responsible for executing the development and procurement of all major surface combatants, amphibious ships, special mission and support ships, and special warfare craft. Currently, the majority of shipbuilding programs managed by PEO Ships benefit from serial production efficiencies, which are critical to delivering ships on cost and schedule.

For more information, visit <http://www.navy.mil>, <http://www.facebook.com/usnavy>, or <http://www.twitter.com/usnavy>. For more news from Naval Sea Systems Command, visit <http://www.navy.mil/local/navsea>.

In this 2008 file photo, Medal of Honor recipient and special guest retired Lt. John Finn talks with navy officers about sea stories during a black-tie gala, “Beyond the Call of Duty,” aboard the USS Midway Museum. Finn died in May 2010, at the Veterans Home of California in Chula Vista, Ca. He received the Medal of Honor for returning fire to invading Japanese bombers at then Naval Air Station Kaneohe Bay, Dec. 7, 1941.

READY^{TO} ROLL



Photos by Christine Cabalo | Hawaii Marine

Madix Davidson, 6, helps representatives from the base Provost Marshal’s Office inspect the tires of his bicycle during the Mokapu Elementary School Bike Rodeo, Sept. 13. More than 80 students brought their bikes and helmets to the school for safety screening. Military police helped children inspect the safety of their helmets, pump air into tires and evaluate brakes. Students who had perfect bike safety evaluations received a safety command coin issued by Col. Brian P. Annichiarico, commanding officer, Marine Corps Base Hawaii.



Madix Davidson, 6, navigates a bicycle obstacle course after representatives from the Provost Marshal’s Office inspected his gear at the Mokapu Elementary School Bike Rodeo, Sept. 13. After officials performed safety checks and adjustments to each student’s bicycle, the young riders took take a trip around an obstacle course to test their bicycle safety skills.

MCIT, from A1

plates were all too familiar objects for those previously deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq.

“Anyone, anywhere around the world can find junk and make a bomb out of it,” Shott said.

A moment later, a grainy video of an insurgent speaking his native tongue appeared on the screen. English subtitles flashed across it as he shared instructions with a fellow insurgent, affording the Marines a glimpse into their enemy’s mindset. Next, they watched another in which a junior Marine described his fears and experiences during his first combat deployment.

Stepping into another dimly lit trailer decorated like an IED factory, the Marines set to explore IED indicators. Meticulously constructed visual displays revealed hidden bomb components in order to educate the Marines on how to find them. A subsequent video rolled, showing insurgents how to keep materi-

als hidden.

“The insurgent talks to the viewers like they’re fellow insurgents,” Shott said. “He trains them how to effectively hide IED components so opposing forces don’t find them, which brings them into the insurgent mindset.”

In the third trailer, the Marines learned the nine principles of IED combat. They were familiarized with electronic warfare equipment that is used to counter radio-controlled IEDs and refreshed on casualty evacuation procedures. Finally, they received an operation order for the MCIT’s last stage — combat scenarios simulated through an interactive video game.

Instead of employing a “death by Powerpoint” approach to training, Shott described the simulated combat scenarios as “hands-on.” Teams of motor transportation operators crawled into armored vehicle mock-ups as machine gunners and drivers. Viewing TV screens in front of them, they navigated their mounted vehicle convoy through

a detailed Afghan city.

In an adjacent section of the room, a team of fellow Marines acted as insurgents on the ground, the convoy’s opposing force in the simulation. They clicked away on their game controllers, emplacing IEDs in specific locations and equipping themselves with rifles and rocket-propelled grenades. Another Marine used his controller to guide an insurgent cameraman to a vantage point to capture video footage of the attack.

“The training was very realistic and easy to learn because it was hands-on,” said Pfc. Garrett Callahan, 19, a motor transport operator with CLB-3 from Hayward, Calif. “It gave me a better idea of what to expect in a situation involving an IED, but also helped bring my mind to focus on what was important.”

With each different team came a new scenario. Drivers guided their vehicles through crowded streets and gunners rattled attackers with storms of machine gun rounds; together they watched for IEDs along their route. They simultane-

ously reported each event through their command structure while a computer graded their responses.

Cpl. Steven Haley, a motor transport operator with CLB-3, said the scenarios allowed the users to experience the variation in IED placement and employment. He described them as “much more in-depth” than the IED lane training he received before deploying to Afghanistan.

“Looking at ways in which insurgents attacked us gave us the opportunity to think like them,” said Haley, a 21 year old from Kennewick, Wash. “This helped improve our understanding of their mindset, and for our junior Marines, to experience a situation involving IEDs before even leaving on a deployment.”

The MCIT’s hours of operation are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., from Monday to Friday. Units may schedule its use through the MCB Hawaii Range Facility Management Support System, or by calling Lee Fry at 257-1110.